

Note:

CONSUMER REGISTER lists proposed & final regulations of Federal agencies. To express your opinion, write. Although comments should reach agencies by the deadline, some agencies will consider comments received late. When in doubt about your comments reaching Washington by the deadline, mail anyway.

Aircraft & airport noise

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering 10 regulations to reduce airplane & airport noise. April 22 is deadline for comments on the first 9 proposals that apply to airplanes & May 20 is deadline for comments on the 10th proposal (airport noise).

The proposals, which EPA will submit to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for its consideration would:

- Reduce noise during airplane's takeoff & approach; (2 proposals).
- Reduce noise by raising airplane's minimum altitude.
- Establish airplane noise requirements.
- Limit noise of supersonic airplanes.
- Modify Federal Aviation Regulations to lower noise limits for all new aircraft types.
- Establish standards for propeller driven small planes.
- Establish standards for planes capable of operating from reduced length runways.
- Establish standards for aircraft capable of vertical takeoffs or landings.
- Establish goals to reduce airport noise for the benefit of communities around airports.

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 19, page 6142. Send comments to Office of Noise Control Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Washington, DC 20460.

Auto speeds

April 23 is deadline for comments on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) question on whether there should be a rule on maximum speedometer indication &, if so, what it should be.

December 1970, NHTSA proposed an 85 miles per hour (mph) speedometer limit, a 95 mph "governor" & a system of warning lights & horns that would operate at speeds of 81 to 85 mph on cars able to travel faster than 80 mph.

On the basis of comments it received, NHTSA felt that speed limitation requirements & warning systems might not be practicable. NHTSA has not made a final decision on limiting the speedometer reading.

In light of the energy crisis—the 55 mph limit—NHTSA feels this is a good time to ask again for consumer comments on speedometer limits.

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 22, page 6765. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590. Refer to Docket No. 748; Notice 1.

Prepayment penalties

Federal Home Loan Bank Board (FHLBB) has ruled

that any prepayment penalty charged by a savings & loan association (operating under Federal charter) on a loan secured by a borrower-occupied house is bound by the provisions of the Federal association. State laws, which set different prepayment penalty rules, would not apply.

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 25, page 7129.

Medicinal & toilet articles

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has changed its policy on amounts of "dangerous" medicinal & toilet articles that may be carried aboard a plane by passengers & crewmembers. These "dangerous articles" include such flammable liquids & solids as perfume & nail polish & items in aerosol cans (shaving foam, for example).

The amendment goes into effect April 27 & increases the total quantity that a person may carry on a plane from 32 ounces to 75 ounces. It also permits aerosol containers to contain more than 16 ounces, but still requires that all other containers have a capacity of not more than 16 ounces each. (Before this amendment, no container could have a capacity of more than 16 ounces.)

Details—*Federal Register*: March 18, page 10117; April 25, 1973, page 10157.

Tomato juice

April 24 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) proposal to permit the addition of Vitamin C to tomato juice. The proposal is the result of a petition filed by Del Monte Corp. to amend the tomato juice standard. Present regulations permit only the addition of salt to tomato juice.

Del Monte said that tomato juice contains a limited amount of Vitamin C—30 mg per 6-ounce serving, which is about half the U.S. Recommended Daily Allowance (U.S. RDA). When it is drunk at breakfast, it replaces other breakfast juices, which usually provide 100% of the U.S. RDA for Vitamin C.

Del Monte said the availability of fortified tomato juice would help consumers in the following ways:

- Offer a wider choice of breakfast juices that fulfill the U.S. RDA for Vitamin C.
- Help consumers who wish to control their caloric intake & still obtain 100% of the U.S. RDA for Vitamin C. (Tomato juice contains about half the calories of most other juices.)

The tomato juice label would have to add Vitamin C to the list of optional ingredients.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 25, page 11095. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, Room 6-86, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Hypoallergenic cosmetics

April 26 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) proposal to establish a standard scientific basis & definition for "hypoallergenic" claims of fewer allergy reactions.

The proposal would require manufacturers of "hypoallergenic" cosmetics to prove their products do what they say they will do or else stop making the claims.

In scientific studies, which are described by FDA in the proposal, these cosmetics would have to cause significantly fewer adverse reactions than similar products about which no claims for hypoallergenicity are made.

FDA's proposal would require a scientific justification of hypoallergenic claims within a period of 2 years for products already on the market.

(FDA has already issued a requirement for manufacturers of all cosmetics to list ingredients on product labels & has established a procedure for cosmetic manufacturers, packers & distributors to voluntarily tell FDA twice a year of consumer complaints about cosmetics.)

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 25, page 7288; March 8, page 9185; Oct. 17, 1973, page 28914. CONSUMER REGISTER: April 1; Nov. 1, 1973. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, Room 6-86, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852. Background information on complaints about hypoallergenic cosmetics & comments by the Cosmetic, Toiletry & Fragrance Association & Almay Corp. are on display in the office of the Hearing Clerk.

Nutrition labeling

May 6 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) proposal to exempt certain foods from full nutritional labeling requirements.

The proposal is the result of requests from trade associations & food manufacturers (Borden Inc., General Foods Corp., National Coffee Association & National Soft Drink Association) for permission to declare the caloric content of certain foods without full nutrition labeling. (Nutrition labeling will be required beginning Jan. 1, 1975, on all foods (1) for which a nutritional claim is made & (2) to which nutrients have been added. Otherwise, nutrition labeling is generally voluntary, but if manufacturers use it, the label must carry specific, minimum nutrition information.)

The proposal would permit 2 exemptions from FDA's nutrition labeling regulations:

1. A food providing less than 25 calories & 2% of U.S. Recommended Daily Allowance (U.S. RDA) of protein, vitamins & minerals would be exempt. Instead of full nutrition labeling terms such as "contains less than 1 gram each of protein, fat & carbohydrate" or "contains less than 2% of the U.S. RDA of any vitamins or minerals" or "contains no vitamins or minerals" would be allowed.
2. A food providing calories from only one source, such as carbohydrate, & less than 2% of U.S. RDA of vitamins & minerals could be labeled "contains no protein

or fat" or if no vitamins or minerals were in the food, it could be labeled "and no vitamins or minerals."

Details—*Federal Register*: March 6, page 8621; March 14, 1973, page 6951; Jan. 19, 1973, page 2124. CONSUMER NEWS: Feb. 1, 1973, page 1. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, Room 6-86, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Protein, fat & carbohydrates

May 6 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) proposal to amend its nutritional labeling regulation to permit manufacturers to say a certain food—such as a relish or crackers—contains small amounts of protein, fat & carbohydrate.

Manufacturers would label these as "less than one gram" or "zero grams" when those are true statements.

Present nutrition labeling regulations require the declaration of amounts of protein, fat & carbohydrate to the nearest gram. (See related article on nutrition labeling.)

Details—*Federal Register*: March 6, page 8620. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, Room 6-86, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Smoking on buses

Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) on April 22 will virtually ban smoking in interstate buses. ICC will permit smoking only in seats in the rear 20% of buses—about the last 8 or 10 seats.

ICC scheduled the ban to begin March 22, but it postponed the ban until April 22 because of a petition by the National Association of Motor Bus Owners (NAMBO). NAMBO said it needed more time to have signs printed.

A brief history follows:

● On Feb. 11, 1970, consumer advocate Ralph Nader asked ICC to ban all smoking on buses in interstate & foreign commerce. He cited health hazards.

● In November 1971 ICC ordered a no-smoking ban in all but the rear 20% of interstate buses (not including charter buses) to become effective Jan. 6, 1972.

● On Dec. 3, 1971, NAMBO asked ICC to postpone the effective date. ICC did so while waiting for a court ruling.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 26, page 11911; Feb. 14, 1970, page 3053; Nov. 25, 1971, page 22579; Dec. 15, 1971, page 23803. CONSUMER NEWS: Dec. 15, 1971, page 2; Jan. 15, 1972, page 3.

Net weight (continued)

May 31 is new deadline for comments on Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) proposal to incorporate net weight procedures into its regulations for meat & poultry. Previous deadline was April 5.

Details—*Federal Register*: Apr. 8, p. 9327; Dec. 3, 1973, page 33308. CONSUMER REGISTER: Apr. 1. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Agriculture Dept., Washington, DC 20250.

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